PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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The Editor will gratefully receive contributions, in English or Tamil, of articles on matters of *National War Front interest*, and publish them, if suitable, as signed articles, in the Bulletin. The articles should be short and reach the Editor a week in advance.

LECTURE CXCV.

LIGHTNING SPEED OF RUSSIAN ADVANCE.

(From the Daily Telegraph).

At Lightning speed a new Russian offensive starting from Perekop and Kerch is clearing the Crimea. The enemy is running hard—most accounts say in panic—for the great entrenched camp of Sebastopol, which many thousands of his soldiers will never reach.

Whether the survivors intend to hold the port, or whether some effort will be made to bring them off by sea, is not yet clear, but in any case very large Russian forces will be released for service elsewhere as a result of this long-matured and dramatically effective blow. They will not be superfluous. Though there is talk of panic also among the enemy in Rumania where other Russian armies are flooding down between the Pruth and the Sereth, and lapping high up into the Carpathians but not yet over them, the position further north between Lvov and Kovel is very different. Here the Germans fed by two main line railways have assembled powerful forces. They arrived too late to save more than a miserable remnant of their comrades trapped near Skala, but that remnant they did save. Their presence, with its hope of further rescues, explains why other German débris are clinging so tenaciously to a part of Tarnopol. There are two possible developments in this sector. The first is that the Germans have no greater ambition than to stop further Russian advance into Poland. The second, perhaps more likely, is that their forces are strong enough to try a real counter-offensive, and that our allies will be faced with a prolonged defensive battle, similar to that which they had to fight and ultimately won near Zhitomir. Their communications in this sector are sketchy compared with those of the enemy. It would therefore be foolish not to recognise that all is far from over on the eastern front. A successful enemy offensive among the Pripet and the Carpathians would awkwardly expose the rear of the Russian

armies now clearing the last acres of the Ukraine and pressing on through Rumania. The enemy could not, of course, retrieve his defeats to any permanently dangerous extent, but he might achieve enough to render not utterly fantastic his short term hope of holding the Russians at bay, while dealing with the forthcoming Allied invasion from the west. That is why the speed at which victory has been won in the Crimea is extremely important. It means that the Russians are likely to have most or all of the Fourth Ukrainian Army free in the near future. There are also other factors which make the enemy's hope of either tactical or strategic success extremely slim. For instance, the time is approaching when activity along the vast northern front can be resumed. Again, a series of heavy Allied air attacks against enemy communications continues, and Budapest has been raided repeatedly. Above all, the people of Britain have only to look or listen, at almost every hour of the day and night, to find confirmation of Colonel Knox's statement to a Canadian audience that the "hour of trial for the United Nations is at hand."

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

(A)—LEADING EVENTS.

18—4—44 (Tuesday).	**2,000 American bombers raid *GERMANY* in day-light.**
	Russians re-capture the historic town of *BALACLAVA* in the *CRIMEA*.
19—4—44 (Wednesday).	**2,000 U. S. Aircraft carry out a mass assault.**
20—4—44 (Thursday).	**Allied Fleet bombards Jap bases in *SUMATRA*.**
	Allies raid *NORTH FRANCE* in day-light for the third time.
21—4—44 (Friday).	**Allies make progress in the *KOHIMA* area in *ASSAM*.**
	***TURKEY* stops deliveries of chrome to Axis countries.**
22—4—44 (Saturday).	***FINLAND* rejects *MOSCOW* terms.**
23—4—44 (Sunday).	**Allies capture *HOLLANDIA* in *DUTCH NEW GUINEA*.**
	Allies pound Hitler's European Fortress in day-light.
24—4—44 (Monday).	**Allies occupy the *HUMBOLDT BAY* area in *NEW GUINEA* completely.**
	U. S. bombers attack air-fields in Southern *GERMANY*.

(B) NEWS IN BRIEF.

Russia.—The Germans have started a counter-offensive S. W. of Narva, inside Estonia, and are resisting the Russian advance in the Stanislawow sector inside Poland.

In the Crimea, the battle for Sebastopol is proceeding.

Russian aircraft bombed the shale-oil distilling plant at KOHITLAL 85 miles east of TALLINN, Capital of ESTONIA. Fierce battles are raging at the foot of the Carpathian hills.

Italy.—Breaking a long stalemate, American troops made a successful attack on German positions in the ANZIO bridgehead. Local clashes continue.

Air-War.—For three days in succession, objectives in N. FRANCE, chiefly communications, were attached. On April 19, over 2,000 aircraft delivered a mass assault on the *Luftwaffe* parking places and factories. HAMM, COLOGNE, DUSSELDORF, BRUNSWICK, and WIENER NEUSTADT were also attacked.

The Pacific.—MOEN and DUBLON Islands in the TRUK atoll were attacked.

ERITUB and AUR in the MARSHALLS have been taken.

HOLLANDIA, a big Japanese base on the north coast of DUTCH NEW GUINEA has been captured.

The Indian Ocean.—Allied bombers and fighters from aircraft-carriers, escorted by a powerful fleet of battleships, cruisers and destroyers, carried out a surprise raid on the SABANG and LHONGA air-fields in N. SUMATRA, DUTCH EAST INDIES. Hits were scored on barracks, hangars, workshops and a radio station. Two enemy destroyers and an escort vessel were sunk.

Burmese Frontier.—The enemy has been driven out of NUNSHIGUM, a hill feature, north of IMPHAL. KOHIMA has been completely relieved, and IMPHAL is firmly held.

Japanese attacks near the BISHENPORE tracks have been repulsed.

Chinese troops are advancing on the MOGAVNG front.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

16—4—44. (Sunday).
EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY :—
BELGRADE (Capital of Bulgaria).

Night :—
No information.

ITALY.

Shipping along the **DALMATIAN** coast.
Targets around **ROME.**

RUSSIA.

(62 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Bivouac and supply areas at SOE (Timor).
The airfields at RABAUL (N. Britain).
Plantations near RABAUL.
TUMLEO SELEO and **ALI Island.**
Coastal villages and bivouac areas along the New GUINEA coast.
Enemy installations at ETEN, PABA and Islands in the TRUK area.

BURMA.

Enemy shipping at PORT BLAIR (Andamans).
Supply dumps at TAUNGUP.
The HEHO airfield in Central BURMA.

17—4—44 (Monday).
EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—
Railway installations at SOFIA (Bulgaria) and BELGRADE (Yugoslavia).
Targets in PAS DE CALAIS area and Northern FRANCE.

NIGHT:—
Objectives in COLOGNE (Germany).
Laying mines in enemy waters.
The railway junction and seaport of CONSTANZA (Rumania).

ITALY.

Communications and supply lines behind the ANZIO beach-head.

RUSSIA.

(36 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Airfields and shipping at HOLLANDIA (N. Guinea).
DUBLON, FEFAN and **TMOEN** (Carolines).
Vessels off ROTI (Timor area.)
KOEPANG (Timor).
Airfield and supply installations along the HANSA-MADANG coast of New GUINEA, NEW IRELAND and NEW BRITAIN.

BURMA.

The airfield at HEHO.
Enemy targets in the ARAKAN, KALADAN, MAYU, CHIN Hills, CHINDWIN and KABAW Valleys.
Bridges in the MANIPUR area.
Transports, rivercraft and shipping in Central and South BURMA.

18—4—44 (Tuesday).
EUROPE (German occupied).
(13 enemy planes shot down;
3 Allied planes lost.)

DAY :—
Targets in BERLIN and PAS DE CALAIS area (France).

Railway yards at CHARLEROI.
The aircraft production centres of ORANIENBURG and RATHENOW (both near Berlin).
Military objectives in FRANCE and BELGIUM.

NIGHT:—
Railway yards at NOISY-LE-SEC, JUVISY, ROUEN and TEROMER.
Targets in BERLIN and Western GERMANY.
Laying mines in enemy waters.

ITALY.
Motor transport in the CASSINO and CIVITA-VECCHIA areas.
Shipping and Communications in the PESCAR and ANCONA areas.

RUSSIA.
(70 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.
The airfield and supply areas in the KAI Islands.
Airfields at RABAUL (N. Britain).
Dumps at RATAVAL and TOBUO.
Coastal targets in New GUINEA.
Shore batteries at MAMAGATA and BUKA.
A bridge at KIETA.
The Jetty at NUMANUMA.
Enemy positions on CHOISEUL.

BURMA.
The oil plant at YENANGAUNG.
The railway line between MANDALAY and SHWEBO.
Targets in the ARAKAN, MAYU, KALADAN, CHIN Hills and CHINDWIN Valley areas.
Railway yards at YWATAUNG.

19—4—44 Wednesday.
EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—
Aircraft factories at KASSEL.
Enemy aircraft packs at ESCHWEGE, PADERBORN, GUTERSLOU, LIPPSTADT and WERL.

NIGHT:—
The Railway junctions of REZECNE and GULBENE (LATVIA).

ITALY.
Railway yards at PIOMBINO and ANCONA.
Railroads, bridges and other communications in the PASCAR and ANCONA areas.
The ports of LEGHORN, PIOMBINO and SAN STEFANO.

RUSSIA.
(65 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.
SABANG (Sumatra).
The airfields at RABAUL.
Shipping along the New GUINEA coast.
PONAPE Island.
Jap positions in the MARSHALLS.

BURMA.
Targets in the ARAKAN, MAYU, KALADAN, CHINDWIN Valley and CHIN Hills areas.

20—4—44. (Thursday).
EUROPE (German occupied).
(4 enemy planes shot down; others

DAY:— destroyed; 9 Allied planes missing).
Military objectives in the PAS DE CALAIS area and North FRANCE.

NIGHT—
Railway targets in COLOGNE (Germany).
Railway yards at LA CHAPELLE.
LENSE and other places in FRANCE.
Railway line from BRUSSELS to NAMUR (Belgium).
Targets in BERLIN.

ITALY.
Railyards at FANO and ANCONA.
Bridges at CARSA.
The harbour at VENICE.
Shipyards at MONFALCONE.
The viaduct at AREZZO and BUCINE.
Bridges at CECINA and GERTALDO.
The harbour at LEGHORN.

RUSSIA.
(69 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.
Islands on the TRUK Atoll.
Airfields and installations at RABAUL.
Jap installations at PALAS POINT (N. Guinea).
The airfield at SATAWAN.

BURMA.
Targets in the ARAKAN, MAYU, CHIN Hills and CHINDWIN Valley areas.

21—4—44 (Friday).
EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—
Railway targets in FRANCE and BELGIUM.
Targets in the PAS DE CALAIS area and FRANCE.

NIGHT:—
Targets in COLOGNE.

ITALY.
Rail communications in Central ITALY including those at FOGGIBONSI, BUCINI and ORVIETO.
The port of SAN STEFANO.
Rail lines South of FLORENCE.
Troop concentrations in the FONBI–FORMIA area.

RUSSIA.
(54 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.
An enemy vessel off HOLLANDIA (N. Guinea).
The airfields at RABAUL (N. Britain).
Supply and bivouac areas at MADANG (N. Guinea).
BUKA (Bougainville).

BURMA.
Targets in the ARAKAN, MAYU, CHIN Hills, and CHINDWIN Valley areas.

22—4—44 (Saturday).
EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY:—
Marshalling yards at HAMM.
Rail centres and airfields in FRANCE and BELGIUM.

NIGHT:—(42 Allied planes missing).
Targets at BRUNSWICK and DUSSELDORF (Germany).
The railway yards at LAON (France).
Objectives in MANNHEIM.

ITALY.
LANCIANO.
Shipping along the DALMATIAN coast.

RUSSIA.
(52 enemy planes shot down).
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.
Jap-held Islands on TRUK and on the MARSHALLS Group.
The Jap base at WEWAK (N. Guinea).
The airfields at RABAUL (N. Britain).
Jap installations in Coastal villages in AITAPA area (N. Guinea).

BURMA.
Targets in the battle areas including the KALADAN, ARAKAN, MAYU, CHIN Hills and CHINDWIN Valley and North BURMA areas.

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

17—4—44 (Monday).
BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

18—4—44 (Tuesday).
BRITAIN.
LONDON area (2 enemy planes shot down).
RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

19—4—44 (Wednesday).
BRITAIN.
LONDON area (only an alert).
RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No information.

20—4—44 (Thursday).
BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

21—4—44. (Friday).
BRITAIN.
No information.
RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

22—4—44. (Saturday).
BRITAIN.
Parts of Eastern ENGLAND.
RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

23—4—44. (Sunday).
BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.
No enemy air activity.

SIDE LIGHTS.

A LULL. The week may be described as quiet. But for the fall of HOLLANDIA in NEW GUINEA and the recurring air-raids, there has been no action of importance. Even the Russian Communiqués, which for weeks and months have been announcing success after success, are silent.

But this lull does not mean inaction. Behind the quiet Russian facade, preparations are going forward for a summer offensive. In ITALY, arrangements are perhaps being made for a landing in Northern ITALY. The relief of KOHIMA will no doubt be soon followed by more stirring events, ending in the expulsion of the Japanese from the whole MANIPUR area. The transfer of the S-E. ASIA Command from NEW DELHI to CEYLON, instead of being a 'flight', as the enemy will have it, has synchronised with a surprise raid on the air-field of SABANG in SUMATRA.

Certainly, BRITAIN and AMERICA are not idle. Great preparations are in progress for the coming Invasion. Communications are being softened on the Invasion-Coast.

The crippling of the *Tirpitz*, and the destruction of 25 U-boats are not isolated events, but parts of the great adventure that is ahead.

The Invasion is now anticipated by the enemy himself. Reconnaissance has revealed to him the presence of the Royal Navy in Home waters, and of the American, French and Italian fleets by her side. Every day he knows trains are leaving LONDON carrying landing forces to the Channel Ports. No nation, or combination of nations in history, as Mr. Donald Nelson has remarked, has assembled an Invasion Armada like this. It will be the greatest in history.

JAPAN, the most cunning of the enemies, aware of the gravity of the situation, has quietly relinquished her SAKHALIN rights to RUSSIA. Antonescu, his dream of a Greater RUMANIA shattered, his half a million men sacrificed to Hitler's ambition, is ready to slip away if he can.

On the other hand, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, crushed under the Nazi heel, but certain of her deliverance, greets her Russian liberators, sending out underground help.

TURKEY, reading the signs of the times aright, has renewed her pledges of friendship to BRITAIN, and has stopped her supplies of chrome to the enemy.

EFFECT ON THE SATELLITES. What is the effect of this Anglo-American air assault and the Red Army's advance on Hitler's satellites? Mr. Wickham Steed put it graphically when he said that "there is something like chaos in Hungary; there is bewilderment bordering on, despair in Rumania and there are divided counsels in Bulgaria."

Recent statements—and more important than statements, Allied deeds—have left no doubt as to Allied intentions. Mr. Eden has given a warning to those Germans and Magyars who, under the orders of the Gestapo, are piling up atrocities in HUNGARY. No less salutary is M. Molotov's admonition to the satellite peoples, that if they do not get off Hitler's war-chariot while there is yet time, they will be crushed with it. The bombing of SOFIA is an aid to remind the Bulgarians of what will await them if they continue their terrorism in THRACE and MACEDONIA. The satellites are told that they need have no fear about their future if they decide to quit the Axis camp. M. Molotov's statement to the Rumanians, that RUSSIA has no desire to change either the social or territorial organisation of their country, is a reiteration of the Soviet Union's adherance to the principles of the Atlantic Charter. Addressing a Free Church Council in LONDON recently, Mr. Eden told his listeners that the world would be made up of independent communities, and that although the responsibility for preserving the peace would fall mainly on the great powers, all powers, small and large, would have their part to play unhindered by any 'super' State.

Strict German Control.

There is little reliable news now from German-occupied HUNGARY, RUMANIA and BULGARIA. Strict Nazi censorship makes it difficult to assess the true situation in these countries to-day. We know, however, that it was HUNGARY's growing antipathy to the Nazi cause that led to the swift German occupation of the country, that we will have no positive indication of Rumanian reaction to M. Molotov's statement, and that it will be difficult to find out how far the Bulgarians have gone in patching up their quarrel with YUGOSLAVIA, and following Dimitrov's advice of helping Marshal Tito's forces.

Critical time ahead.

The next few weeks will be cruel in the history of these States. They can now declare their real intentions, for the liberating forces are almost on their door-steps. The old excuse that they dare not do so for fear of German reprisals, is fast losing its validity. The threat of reprisals stands, but the proximity of the liberating forces, and the present Nazi necessity of putting everything they have on the actual battlefront, promises that the reprisals can never be so severe. Moreover, it is not too heavy a price to pay for the security of their countries' future. The hardships that they are now enduring under the Nazi yoke are infinitely greater than the ones they will experience if they decide to overthrow that domination.

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PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE. The elder Allied statesmen of Churchill and Hull, doubtful no longer of victory, are planning for a post-war world. In all their discussions two ideas stand out; one, the promotion of free institutions, in every part of the world; and two, their maintenance by military power against future aggression.

THE MIRACLE OF THE EMPIRE. Mr. Churchill also believes that in the maintenance of this peace the British Commonwealth will play a worthy part. When ENGLAND declared war on GERMANY in 1939 all the counties of the Empire, save EIRE, rose as one country.

The great maxim held, 'when the king declares war, the Empire is as one'. It was the darkest moment, but no single member of the Commonwealth flinched. 'Was there one cry of doubt, or terror?' asks Mr. Churchill. 'No.' he replies, 'Darkness was turned into light, and into a light which will never fade away.'

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'WHAT IS THIS MIRACLE?' asks Mr. Churchill, which brings men from the uttermost ends of the earth, some taking 20 days before reaching a recruiting station, and some armies having to be sent 14,000 miles overseas before reaching the battlefield? What is this force, this miracle which makes Governments as sovereign as any that have ever existed, to cast aside immediately all their affairs and set themselves to help the old land and the good cause, and to beat the common enemy?' He answers, 'we must look with the eye of the spirit. It is then that we learn that human beings are not dominated by material things, but by ideas, for which they are willing to give their lives or their life's work.'

'Many and various forces have held the British Empire together—enlightened self-interest among the rest. But make no mistake' says Mr. Churchill, 'that behind those influences stand more mysterious forces, which cause human beings to do the most invaluable, improvident, and from the narrow point of view profitless things.'

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FROM THE DEFENSIVE TO THE OFFENSIVE. Admiral Ernest J. King's survey of the growth of AMERICA'S naval power is interesting reading. He is Commander-in-Chief of the UNITED STATES Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations as well. His report is authoritative. Till a little over two years ago the U. S. Navy was inadequate for two-ocean service. At the time of the PEARL HARBOUR tragedy, the needs of the Atlantic war kept part of the fleet away from the Pacific. At the end of 1943, however, the war against the U-boat inclined in favour of the Allies. By that time, a Pacific fleet had been rapidly built up. This enabled the U. S. to take the initiative in the Pacific, to win successes in the Coral Sea and at MIDWAY, to seize GUDALCANAL, and to recover the ALEUTIANS, the SOLOMONS, the GILBERTS, the MARSHALLS, and part of the CAROLINES. The sea lanes in the S. W. Pacific were opened.

Between PEARL HARBOUR and now, six battleships and fifty carriers have been put into service.

During this period, much valuable experience has also been gained in the technique of amphibious warfare, in which the Japanese were once experts. The Army, the Navy and the Air Force have been trained to work in concert. Numerical inferiorities in every fighting service has been reversed. To-day, American submarines and planes, battleships and cruisers move in the Central and S. W. Pacific unchallenged. The report concludes.

'Both in Europe and in the Pacific long roads still lie ahead. But we are now fully entered on those roads, fortified with unity, power and experience, imbued with confidence and determined to travel far east to victory.

SWEDEN, it is reported, has declined to accede to the Allied demand to stop sending military supplies to GERMANY. It may freely be admitted that the position of SWEDEN is difficult. Though the possibility of a German attack on SWEDEN is now remote, SWEDEN'S geographical position always exposes her to this risk.

SWEDEN'S difficulty, again, is not only the fear of invasion, but the risk of losing supplies of coal and coke from GERMANY. SWEDEN has also no oil, apart from some shale-oil, which she internally produces.

SWEDEN also imports commercial iron, potash, common salt, calcium carbide and artificial silk from GERMANY.

GERMANY buys Swedish iron for her industrial plants in eastern GERMANY, so that Mr. Cordell Hull is right in saying that neutrals like SWEDEN prolong the war by sending their materials to the enemy.

Probably, there is little that the Allies can do at present to prevent this leakage. Owing to her geographical position, SWEDEN has to fear GERMANY more than the Allies, though she perfectly knows that the Allied displeasure which she is now incurring may be visited on her after the war.

CONTRACTING CIRCLE OF AIR ACTION ROUND REICH.

(*From the Daily Telegraph*).

A few days ago the German Command occupied Hungary to stop the rot on the Russian front. Now Russian armies have broken into Rumania, and while they surge forward Allied bombers from Italian bases have made heavy attacks on Budapest. The double onslaught was a damaging blow to the German plans for holding the Danube valley ; it was also an omen of the final disaster.

With good reason Budapest has long been known as the crossroads of Europe. There converge two railways from Vienna on either side of the Danube which link South-eastern Europe with Germany, From Budapest diverge lines on which German forces holding Rumania and Bulgaria depend for their supplies and reinforcements. The German divisions in Yugoslavia and Italy have also been supplied to some extent through the Budapest ganglion.

Now that the Russian armies are only 250 miles away and the Budapest railway installations are strained to the utmost, this can hardly meet the desperate needs of the shaken fronts retreating to Rumania. Day bombardment by the 15th United States Air Force has shattered yards and rolling stock, and within 12 hours R. A. F. bombers came by night and struck a large steel works and armament factory. The damage was such that the puppet Hungarian Government closed all railways and roads at the city boundary and proceeded to enforce martial law.

Marshal Koniev's army thrusting to Rumania, and Marshal Zhukov's advance towards Lvov, must soon feel the benefit of the irrecoverable delay to German troops and munition movements. Moscow has recognised the great help given to the Russian offensive in March by the R. A. F., delivery of 20,000 tons on Germany, and by the 15 daylight attacks of the United States Strategic Air Force. New and larger operations have begun.

The air power circle round Germany is almost complete, and is closing in. We may depend on the Russians to move their front nearer the Allied airfields soon, and the advance will be accelerated by the bombers from Italy and from Britain.

While the R. A. F., assail Budapest we have news of the fleet air, arm bombing the ignominious *Tirpitz* far away in the famous Alten fjord of North Norway. A shy German statement that the attack had "no full effect" obviously confesses hits which the Admiralty announced, and implies the truth of Swedish reports of heavy casualties and fires.

Though the circle of air action round the Reich has thus far had a gap in the east, the contracting process bids fairly to be swift. The intense centralisation which made Budapest, and to a rather small degree Bucharest, dominate their countries has proved a weakness, as their transport centres are shattered. The most important of all the effects of the encircling onslaught is the progressive destruction of the *Luftwaffe*. Over Budapest it lost nearly half the planes it sent up to fight the Americans.

ENEMY NAVAL LOSSES FOR MARCH

HEAVY TOLL OF JAP SHIPS IN THE PACIFIC.

Enemy naval losses for March, usually the blackest month for U-boat warfare, show a heavy toll. Details are not yet available, but a statement will be issued shortly. Our light coastal forces have been concentrating their attack on U-boat supplies, and many ships seeking to bring supplies through the English Channel. have been sunk or damaged off the French coast.

On March 3, two armed coastal vessels were sunk off the Cherbourg Peninsula by the R. C. A. F. and Coastal Command aircraft, and two merchant vessels were torpedoed off the Frisian Islands on March 29 by Beaufighters. In addition, an E-boat was accounted for in the English Channel on the night of March 15-16 by Coastal Command aircraft. Many more have been hit and left on fire.

Enemy losses in the Mediterranean include three ships sunk by French light forces on March 20, and two supply vessels off Paros Islands by Beaufighters. Two coasting supply vessels and a large merchantship were sunk by destroyers off the east coast of Italy on March 13, and a schooner was destroyed in an encounter with coastal craft in the Adriatic on March 15.

JAPANESE LOSSES.

Japanese naval losses for the month in the Pacific area have been particularly heavy. They include an aircraft carrier, which was torpedoed on March 2 by submarines of the Pacific Fleet, a destroyer sunk by Allied air patrols off the coast of New Guinea on March 23, and as a patrol boat and three corvettes. March 21 was a particularly black day for Jap merchant shipping, when H. M. submarines sunk no less than seven ships in Far Eastern waters, two of which were supply ships of medium size.

It is also reported that a large supply ship and one of medium size were torpedoed and severely damaged. A smaller vessel which was attacked by gunfire was driven ashore and burst in flames; it was still burning five hours later. Many more ships in this area are reported to have been damaged. In addition, two transport ships, one of 6,000 tons and the other of 4,000 tons, were sunk by Allied aircraft off Wewak, and a cargo ship of 5,000 tons was destroyed on March 20 off New Guinea. On March 15, three

vessels of 10,000 tons each, and on March 11 and 12 three more larger cargo ships were sunk when carrying supplies to beleaguered Japanese troops in the same area.

March 3 was another day of victory for the Allies, when, besides sinking three small craft and a supply barge, two coastal vessels were accounted for, and a large supply ship (7,000 tons) was sunk by air patrols. In addition to these larger losses, the enemy has suffered a continuous drain in daily losses of smaller coastal and supply ships, barges, etc., in this area.

GERMAN RESERVES DEPLETED

SMALL HELP FOR BALKAN COUNTRIES

(*From the Manchester Guardian*).

The advance of the Red Army well into Rumanian territory to the river Sereth, which is supposed to be the line on which German and Rumanian forces will try to make a stand, lends particular importance to the extent of the military assistance that Germany is capable of giving to Rumania and incidentally to Hungary.

Conflicting reports are being received in Ankara. According to one version, 27 divisions have been dispatched to Rumania through Hungary, presumably some of them are staying in the latter country. Another report estimates German assistance to her satellites at 15 divisions.

Allied military quarters are inclined to scepticism about those figures, which they consider are out of proportion with what Germany can spare from other fronts, and also with the transport facilities required to move such huge forces to the front. They are of the opinion that Germany may have mustered whatever forces she could from various parts of Europe—the Balkans, Denmark, and possibly Western Europe—to support her armies retreating from Russia, and help the Rumanian and Hungarian armies, but they do not think that those forces amount to more than eight or possibly 10 divisions.

Much was heard about the divisions that the Germans held in reserve in Central Europe and rushed to whichever part of the Continent was menaced, but Allied military experts are of the opinion that after the drafts made on them to reinforce the Wehrmacht in Italy, the Balkans and other fronts, those divisions dwindled down to no more than skeleton formations used to train and incorporate new recruits. Therefore, if the Germans must send important reinforcements to the east, they could draw them from only two sources—from Western Europe at the risk of weakening their power of resistance to Allied landings, or from S. S. units which help Himmler to maintain his grip on the German people. Depletion of either of those forces is fraught with such deadly peril for the Nazis that one can well understand the awkward quandary in which the German General Staff and the Nazi Party find themselves at present.

DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

(*Wickham Steed*).

How many of us, I wonder, have managed to fit the recent address by Cordell Hull into the general picture? It was a notable utterance, which impressed everybody in Britain who either heard it, or read it, as a remarkable statement of American and Allied policy.

Evidently, the policy of the United States must be a very weighty element in any Allied policy. It was so last time, only then there were snags and differences that ought to be avoided this time. The enormous popularity of President Wilson in Europe was chiefly due to a belief that he had a good policy, whereas the European allies who, by the way, were only the associates, not the allies of the United States, had no comprehensive policy at all. Much of the confusion in Europe and the world, that accompanied and followed the Paris Peace Conference, came directly and indirectly from the fact that President Wilson's policy turned out to be much more hazy even upon the League of Nations than it appeared to be, and that the people in the Congress of the United States were not disposed to back it up.

AMERICAN POLICY.

But it is quite useless, and not altogether just, to complain that America let us down, by rejecting the Peace Treaty and refusing to enter the League of Nations. It is useful, on the contrary, to take account of things that bear upon the framing and the carrying out of American policy, so that this time we may know, more or less exactly, where we stand.

This is where Mr. Cordell Hull's broadcast address comes in. It was not, it could not be, a hard and fast definition of American or Allied policy. He is Secretary of State in the administration of President Roosevelt, who is the head of the Democratic Party, and this is a presidential year when party feeling runs high, and when the next President, whoever he may be, has to be elected in November, together with the greater part of Congress. So we must not suppose that what Mr. Cordell Hull says can bind any future President or Congress. We can, however, note that this very careful, moderate and circumspect American statesman has made an effort to lay before the American people the principles of a policy on which he believes both parties could substantially agree, and thus to lift the whole matter of electioneering.

No foreigner, and especially no Englishman, ought even to suggest that Mr. Cordell Hull is right or wrong in anything he recommends to his own people. The British, and other foreigners who care for the peace and well-being of the world, can reflect upon the ideas he thinks likely to be acceptable to American opinion. He believes that American opinion has been moving in some definite directions since the present war broke out. He said it has moved away from a strong preference for separate action to the knowledge and conviction that unity of action with other nations alone can achieve results essential to the continuance of freedom in the world, and that it has also moved away from careless tolerance of evil institutions to the conviction that free Governments and Nazi and Fascist Governments cannot exist together.

AMERICANS DETERMINED TO DESTROY NAZIS.

"An understanding of these points," Mr. Hull declared, "will help to clarify the policy of the United States Government." Then he made two positive statements. "The American people," he said, "are determined to press forward with their Allise to the defeat of their enemies, and to the destruction of the Nazi and Fascist systems; and the American people are also determined to go on after victory with their Allies, and all other nations which desire peace and freedom, to establish and maintain in full strength the institutions without which peace and freedom cannot be enduring realities."

To these statements he added something that sounds like a reminder and a warning. "The United States," he went on, "cannot move in and out of international co-operation and in and out of participation in the responsibility of a member of the family of nations." After saying some interesting things about the behaviour of Neutrals, the French

Committee of National Liberation and the future of Italy, Mr. Cordell Hull rubbed in his argument with a further reminder that the free nations of the world were brought to the brink of destruction by allowing themselves to be separated and divided.

VICTORY AND ENDURING PEACE.

"Unless the United States, the British Commonwealth, the Soviet Union and China, harmonize their real interests, and agree together," he told them, there can be no hope of turning victory into an enduring peace. Agreement and co-operation between these four big nations, without prejudice to the rights and interests of less powerful nations, must form the solid framework for the building up of all future policy and international organisation, because the very possibility of an enduring peace and of free institutions, depends upon the strength of the framework, otherwise all organisations to preserve peace will be paper creations, and the path will be wide open for the rise of another aggressor.

This Mr. Hull believed to be the commonsense of his fellow countrymen, as shown in the non-partisan approval by Congress of the declaration signed at Moscow, on October 30, last year by himself, Mr. Anthony Eden, M. Molotov and the Ambassador of China. So he announced, "the American Government has gone to work upon the form and substance of an international organisation to maintain peace and prevent aggression, and upon the economic and other co-operative arrangements necessary to maintain the British and the United States as working partners with other free nations. Such an international organisation must bind its members not to use force against each other, or against any other nation, except in accordance with the arrangements made. These arrangements will provide for the maintenance of adequate forces to preserve peace, and for an international court to apply law to the settlement of controversies which fall within the realm of law.

UNITED WILL OF AMERICAN PEOPLE.

He asked for the help of both Houses of Congress in this work, so that it might express the united will of the American people who, like their Allies, are determined to make an end of Fascism and Nazism and of the power behind them. In substance, and with one important addition, Mr. Cordell Hull's plan resembles the outline of a league to enforce peace which was sponsored some 30 years ago by a former Republican President of the United States, the late William Howard Taft. So it is in keeping with older American ideas. An important addition was made by Mr. Hull in an expression of deep faith that a period of great democratic accomplishment will follow the liberation of Europe from the German yoke, and that the liberated nations will have a new and magnificent opportunity to achieve the social and economic democracy upon which political democracy must rest. I personally, interpret this admission as a sign that Mr. Cordell Hull feels the need, not only to enforce, but to create peace.

I have long ceased to believe that peace can be permanently preserved by arrangements merely designed to prevent or to punish aggression. I think the League of Nations broke down mainly because it was too negative, because it was against war, more than for peace, because it did not understand peace as a go-ahead, constructive, full-blooded business that could make war look like a mean and barbarous thing. To my mind this war is not so much a war as a universal policy operation against greedy and bloodthirsty gangsters. To smash them utterly, and then to set about the creation of vigorous peace, should, I am convinced, be the real Allied policy, and if we can get this policy into our minds, we shall find all the aspects of the present fighting fall into their proper places in a comprehensive picture of the whole mighty endeavour.

Mr. STETTINIUS' TALKS IN BRITAIN.

(From the Times).

Referring to Mr. Stettinius' discussions with British officials, a diplomatic correspondent observes that good progress is being made in a survey of policy which ranges near and far. The nearer and more urgent problems include the political developments in France as well as in Italy and in Rumania, the last of which is now confronted with its final chance of unhitching itself from Germany before being forcibly detached. Also, among the nearer problems, must be included the countries still out of the war and still supplying Germany with war materials—Spain and Turkey in particular, both now considering strong representations on their export policy, which can neither avert Germany's defeat nor promote their own interests after the war.

The present discussions ensure that Britain and America shall move forward to join in wider discussions in full understanding one with another. When they turn to more distant problems—the task of restoring in Europe a régime of law, and the possibilities of setting up an international organisation for security—the discussions become more tentative and more widely exploratory. The final decision is a matter for wider Allied deliberation; and the present talks in no way by-pass such deliberations forecast in the Three-Power Moscow announcements. Special duties which fall on Britain and America within their own combined theatres of war require the closest possible integration of policy between them, but in general the talks are mainly an exchange of views—similar to others in the past, whether Anglo-American or Anglo-Russian—designed to clear away obscurities, and allow each Government to see how far it can go in proposals likely to be accepted by all. A second reason against final planning lies in the simple fact that the war is not yet won, and no one can tell what changes may occur in Europe before it is won.

The present discussions are held on the eve of military assaults beyond all parallel. The confidence of the two Governments in the success of those great, hard assaults is seen in their present desire to know each other's mind to the fullest with regard to the broad lines of European reconstruction. But they are days of study and comparison not of decision.

WAVERING SATELLITES.

ARMED RESISTANCE AGAINST NAZIS IN BULGARIA, BALKAN STATES AND FINNISH PEACE RUMOURS.

(By Leonard Kirschen).

Turkey has shown a great deal of interest in the latest Finnish peace rumours. There is, obviously, something in all these rumours, which are being discussed freely in the Rumanian and Hungarian Press. Both Rumania and Hungary are interested, too, because these rumours may give them some indication as to how they could make good their escape from the Nazi camp,

There is a good deal of unrest in vassal Europe. People are behaving in an extraordinary manner, trying to prove that they went to war for no other purpose than to prevent aggression. To-day the aggressors are the weak—the defenceless. This sounds rather

funny, but it is true. Never has a country put out more vehement denials about participation in battle on the Russian front than Hungary, which, after all, had never been provoked by Russia, never had a common frontier with Russia and had no outstanding differences with her.

Finland and Rumania went to war because they felt they had a grievance, and because they thought that Germany was strong enough to guarantee them this adventure. Now that they have bled profusely, and seen how heavy their miscalculation was they are trying to get out of the war. If Finland breaks away, the result will be worth watching, because some of the vassals believe that the Italian example and the German retribution which followed will not be applied to them. So, all are eager to see what happens if Finland breaks away: whether she is going to be punished by the Germans to the same extent as Italy was when she made her escape.

"FAIRLY GENEROUS" PEACE TERMS.

Turkish diplomatic circles who have been watching the latest Finnish endeavours to get out of the war, believe that Russia is offering fairly generous peace terms which Finland, in her present plight, cannot afford to ignore, and that these conditions are very much more generous than any offered by Russia at any other time. It seems that this information which has reached Ankara recently, comes from Central Europe itself, which is keeping Finland under strict observation.

There is, however, another country—Bulgaria—which has got itself mixed up in this war, but has really not undertaken any active part in it. For some time past Soviet warnings to Bulgaria have been sharper than usual. These warnings have been given by Soviet radio stations, and especially by Radio Tiflis, which has concentrated on Bulgaria. Russia is not at war with Bulgaria, and we think the cause for this is that no Bulgarian Government could afford the risk of courting unpopularity, and perhaps open revolution, by breaking off relations with Russia.

There are indications that people in power in Bulgaria are beginning to get worried. Messages reaching Istanbul from reliable sources indicate that lately senior Bulgarian officers had contacted Serb officers with Quisling tendencies, to find out whether it would be possible for these Bulgarian officers and their men to join the collaborationist forces fighting against the partisans if a revolution broke out in Bulgaria against the established régime.

DESERTIONS IN BULGARIAN ARMY.

This means that senior officers in the Bulgarian Army, who have long been for alliance with Germany, are now terrified at the prospect of a revolution which will in the end make them responsible for the Bulgarian-German alliance. Coming as it does from high-ranking Bulgarian officers, this fear is more than an indication of the trend of opinion, but a certain pointer, that something is brewing.

Junior officers in the Bulgarian Army and the rank and file have been known to have had their sympathies elsewhere. It is known that a number of Bulgarian divisions have been stationed in Serbia, and in the territories annexed by Bulgaria from the former Yugoslavia. In these territories, Bulgarian troops always had to encounter a certain resistance, and often came to clashes with partisans operating in these areas. It is now known that junior officers and the Bulgarian rank and file have deserted in quite large numbers, in order to join the partisans in their fight against the administration, and especially against any German troops they encounter. In one of the battles against a German

column which they routed, they managed to get a large quantity of booty, which included guns, rifles and much ammunition. It is from such battles and raids that they get some of their supplies which enable them to continue their resistance.

But this is an indication of what is happening really outside Bulgaria only, and there is a good deal happening inside Bulgaria.

ARMED RESISTANCE.

Inside Bulgaria, public servants, industrial and railway workers and shopkeepers have refused alternative work on such a scale that the Government has had to threaten them with trial on charges of desertion before courts-martial. Thus, a series of condemnations has taken place on charges of the accused belonging to the so-called 'anti-social' elements. Despite the newly created gendarmerie and the recall and replacement of 'untrustworthy' governors, armed resistance by small organised bands continues in the districts of Plodviv, Karlova, Kazanlik and Elena.

Twenty 'Communists' were recently hanged in public in Targovishte, as a warning to other Bulgarians to cease resistance against the Germans and their supporters. The people in these districts are helping the bands by giving them shelter and food. Of course, in the occupied districts the resistance is much stronger and is beginning to spread. In January, at least one senior and 24 other German police officers and officials were killed. And these killings took place during pitched battles with organised bands. Railway lines are being continually attacked, and at the end of January the railway line between Gevgeli and Skoplje was seriously damaged and traffic interrupted.

This is just a summary of what is happening in a few of the Axis-occupied territories.

Spring is here, and more than three months have passed since the Cairo Conference and the Teheran meetings were held. This year is one full of fateful forebodings for the Axis, and the zero hour is approaching. The Germans must be waiting for the onslaught with great anxiety, and these worries, such as have been described above, must weigh not a little when they are forced to make their decisions.

TURKEY ISOLATED IN BALKAN POLITICS.

(By Leonard Kirschen).

In my previous dispatch, I have discussed the Hungarian problem and Turkish reaction. Let us now consider the rest of the Balkans, that is, Rumania and Bulgaria.

At the time of writing nothing is clear. We do not know whether Bulgaria and Rumânia have been occupied or not. The news that they have may be true or not, but one thing we know, that there are already German armies in Rumania—which is still fighting as an ally of Germany's—and that there are German troops in Bulgaria. In these two countries, all that could be done was to reinforce them with more troops and tighten the economic, military and political hold on them. The last meaning, of course, more Gestapo control.

Both Rumania and Bulgaria have been and are even now trying to get out of the war. We have had Sevoff's peace mission and we had Prince Stirbey's mission. But all this means absolutely nothing. So far, both Rumanians and Bulgarians have always replied that the moment for opposing the Germans had not yet come. Now the Russians are there and the moment has come. Will they do anything? That is the question

everyone is asking. If they want to do something, they must rise now, or perhaps it will be too late, not because the Russians will have arrived, but because the Germans will have occupied the countries so completely that nobody will be able to move.

TURKEY'S FOREIGN POLICY.

Now, what is Turkey's position in this whole complex of events? I have lived for over three years in Turkey, and have seen how the Turks have always tried to maintain their Balkan links, even with Bulgaria, which is a country universally hated in Turkey. Turkey always based her foreign policy on the idea that there is such a thing as Balkan solidarity, and by offering her good offices for an eventual peace mediation she was as an ally of Great Britain's, trying to preserve the Balkan block for after the war.

We know that the idea of a Balkan block had been regarded with disapproving eyes by Moscow, because the Russians had had bad experiences with the so-called sanitary cordons which had been drawn right across her European frontiers. But lately, probably under the idea that it might help the Balkans to break with Hitler, Moscow was not quite so adamant on this point.

Hitler's latest moves into the Balkans leave Turkey completely isolated. She can do nothing more. Already, if we consider only a minor detail, the Anatolian Agency correspondents in Sofia, Bucharest and Budapest can no longer send out news. The correspondent in Sofia has been recalled, and so has the correspondent in Berlin. The agency is now considering the possibility of recalling the correspondents now in Budapest and Bucharest.

GERMAN CENSORSHIP ELUDED.

And incidentally, I must just mention that the man who was first to flash the news of Hungary's occupation by the Germans, and thus upset a good deal of the German make believe, was Ihsan Djemal Karaburcak, the Anatolian agency's correspondent in Bucharest. He flashed his message out, somehow managing to elude the censorship, on the evening of March 19. On March 20, foreign correspondents in Turkey were able to retransmit the news, and on the same evening the whole world knew.

Turkish public opinion was shocked, and I am not going to give you any press comment to back this, because I am telling you what Ahmed and Mehmet, the man-in-the-street, is saying. It has given the Turks a good opportunity to compare what an alliance between a big and a small power really is like when the big power is led by a man like Hitler. Britain never used such methods to persuade Turkey to place air-bases at her disposal.

And now for a last item, to show how the Turkish Government feels about this Ex-Premier Kallay sought and was given refuge in the Turkish Legation in Budapest. I understand that the Turkish Government has been negotiating with the German authorities to give Kallay transit facilities in order to reach Turkey.

FORCIBLE TRANSPORTATION OF ITALIAN WORKERS.

(*By the Zurich Correspondent of the Daily Telegraph*).

Tens of thousands of Italian workers, hitherto unaffected by the German labour recruitment, are now being forcibly transported to Germany.

These mass deportations are taking place under conditions of great hardship. The Wehrmacht and Neo-Fascist press gangs round up the workers, especially skilled in

mechanics, in their homes, in cafés and public places. Most raids of this kind occur at night, but at no hour in the twentyfour are the workers safe.

The victims are lodged in over-crowded prisons till trains for German industrial centres are ready to depart. Men are marched under strong escort, or driven in lorries to the stations, where they are herded into trucks. With the connivance and aid of the Italian railway employees some escape *en route*. They then generally take to the Maquis country.

In addition to these constant raids, workers are being recruited direct from the factories, from which they also are removed by force. The first to be conscripted are those suspected of anti-Fascist tendencies. It is hoped by this means to lessen the danger of sabotage, and the carrying out of the "go slow" policy.

The shortage of manpower in German factories is probably influencing the Nazi authorities to take to risks which they would not have considered a few months ago. A cable from Milan in the *Tribune de Geneve* states, for instance, that in some aircraft factories in Germany there are now only 10 per cent of expert workers, instead of the requisite 70 per cent. There is also a shortage of engineers.

Nazi occupation authorities in Italy have, therefore, announced that engineers who fail to enrol voluntarily will be rounded up and deported. On March 20, 10,000 Italian workers left Milan destined for forced labour in the Reich, while further big detachments were despatched 10 days later. The total aimed at by the Germans is 500,000.

FACTORS GOVERNING DURATION OF PACIFIC WAR.

(N. C. Braidwood in the *Daily Telegraph*).

The speed with which the Japanese in Central and South-West Pacific are rolled back in the next six months will determine the length of the war in the Far East. The Japanese homeland may be under attack by land-based aircraft within eight months, although some observers put the time at 18 months.

It can be seen that the Allied objective is the China coast for it is only from there—by co-ordinated attacks from the Philippines—that a large-scale offensive aimed at the annihilation of Japan's military might can be mounted.

Strategic islands will be seized by the Allies in their onward march. Established airfields and new airstrips will be used to enable them to leap to the next objective—more airfields.

The easiest approach will be from Northern New Guinea, using the chain of islands extending to the Asiatic mainland as stepping stones. Movements of troops across the Central Pacific will be most hazardous—vast stretches of the sea separate the island groups. But co-ordination of Allied efforts, which has already paid dividends at Truk and the Palau Islands in the Carolines, will permit a combined drive to the China coast.

This much is clear—the combined Chief of Staff have perfected the machinery of co-ordination. There are no longer three distinct Allied battle areas—South, South-West and Central Pacific. The Pacific is one Allied battle front with the mobility of forces which one front implies.

As General MacArthur advances up to New Guinea and beyond, he will rémove the cushion protecting Japan's Central Pacific islands. Thrusts by the American fleet across the Central Pacific will make his task easier. The powerful British fleet in the Indian Ocean has aggravated Tokyo's troubles, by hampering the dispositions of enemy naval forces and their already overtaxed air arm. Pressure by the Allies against the Japanese in Burma will help both the American Navy and General MacAruthur. For although the Japanese are now staging an offensive against Admiral Mountbatten, they must dispose their air and ground forces to meet the drives from the south-east and the east. To ignore these major threats would be to repudiate one of the cardinal rules of war.

The Allied air strength will play a decisive part in the months ahead, and it will break the Japanese back. There are already Japanese-occupied islands and garrisons behind our forward positions. When the Asiatic coast is reached, there will be many more. These islands in enemy hands will not be any real impediments to our advance.

Meanwhile, Japan's necessity for defending her homeland with big air forces is spelling her undoing. She has to disperse the rest of her aircraft over a wide area of the Pacific. Events are proving that, even with the inevitable shortening of the Japanese line, the enemy has not enough aircraft to go round.

106 SOVIET MILITARY DECORATIONS FOR BRITONS.

(*From the Daily Mail*).

The recent presentation by Stalin of 106 military decorations to members of the British fighting forces is significant, not only of the deep appreciation felt in Soviet Russia of Britain's aid, but also of the big part which is being played by some of Britain's leading military and naval experts in Russia.

The deeds for which these medals have been awarded are closely guarded secrets but it is significant that many of the highest Orders and medals of the Soviet Union have been included.

Among the many recipients of decorations are Admiral Sir Robert Burnett, victor of many battles on the Arctic convoy route and commander of the cruisers in the *Scharnhorst* battle, who receives the Order of Suvorov, one of the highest honours conferred by the Soviet.

The Order of the Red Star goes to Captain Guy Maund, who, after important work in organising the Dunkirk evacuation, became the head of an important British naval establishment in Russia.

In the list also are 15 officers and men of the merchant navy honoured for "courageous service in the carriage of armaments to the Soviet Union."

Russia's recognition of the British heroes forges yet another link in the unity of purpose and design between Britain and her ally.

BARRACUDAS: NEW WEAPON IN SEA-AIR OFFENSIVE.

(*By A. J. McWhinnie*).

While Allied bombers and fighters in their thousands range over the whole of Hitler's Europe in a non-stop air offensive which is linked up with the great Russian land drive, the part of the air forces in the war at sea has appeared less spectacular. Now Barracudas have struck to remind Germany that air power at sea has not been neglected; that in tactics, technique, production and imagination it has been making impressive progress.

The continued destruction of U-boats, with improved protection of Allied convoys has, it is true, brought evidence of steady development in air cover for Allied shipping. There have been constant revelations of new strength and improved methods of fighter protection at sea, with growing output of new carrier vessels. All those developments, however, have tended to strike a defensive note, even if it was clear that the increased air protection, both by R.A.F. Coastal command and by attacking fighters from escort carriers, had long since brought about a situation in which U-boats were being forced into the rôle of the hunted rather than hunters.

EQUIPPED FOR LARGE-SCALE ACTION.

But now Barracudas indicate that offensive preparations in sea-air activity have been steadily going ahead throughout the long months, and that Britain, pioneer in naval air operations, has been as effectively developing a newer technique of the use of sea-air power.

The brilliantly executed bombing assault that put the 50,000-ton German battleship *Tirpitz* out of action for more long months showed not only the efficiency of the new dive-bomber but the success of its employment.

It becomes plain that the Fleet Air Arm are not only equipped with naval aircraft but also that with the employment of a heavy fighter cover, the Navy are now in a position to stage large-scale operations of a most telling kind. The *Tirpitz* action revealed the hitherto unsuspected mobility of sea-air power. The Germans may well be wondering where the next blow will fall.

The advent of the Barracuda reveals that the problems of improved naval aircraft were being studied and mastered at the same time.

WAITED THEIR CHANCE.

The new torpedo-bomber is now in full-scale production in Britain. It was not without its teething troubles, for it was expected to make its first appearance in the action against the battleships of the Italian fleet. Certain alterations were then ordered. Barracuda was made the best in its class. Just when all was ready for operations to be launched, Mussolini's fleet steamed peacefully to join the Allies.

Barracudas had to wait. The fate of the *Tirpitz* showed that nothing was lost by waiting. The Germans had never reckoned with this form of air attack on their ill-fated battleship. They were surprised once again by the shrewdness of the Allied tactics and by the invention of new equipment.

IMAGINATIVE USE OF AIR POWER.

A Broadcast from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on April 2.

(By a military spokesman of the South-East Asia Command).

This last month has given us the almost perfect example of what can be done with the help of air superiority—if that superiority is clearly used and woven into the plans of the ground forces. The seizing, by Major-General Wingate's men, of a base in North Burma, 200 miles behind the enemy lines, was a feat which makes military history, and it has focussed on to this once forgotten front the eyes of the world's air strategists and tacticians.

The story of the operation is probably well known now to you all: A force of gliders was towed over the Chin Hills on a moonlit night, and places marked as likely landian grounds by the expedition last year our gliders were cast off and landed. Out of them came American airfield construction engineers and British troops who helped and protected them as they worked.

In 12 hours a usable landing strip had been made—by the next evening troop carrying Dakotas and C 47s. were using it. The Japs made no attempt to interfere. The surprise was complete—and remained so for another week—by which time the strip was protected by Spitfires, and we had flown in all our forces, with no losses other than those incurred in glider crashes on the first night.

The boldness of this plan; the skill of the American glider pilots who took in the spearhead before any airfield existed, and the well-organised assembling of our main force during the next few nights—all this could have been wrecked by strong opposing air power. Had the Japs had plenty of reconnaissance planes they would have found our force, and its strip, much earlier than they did. An incomplete British force might then have been brought to battle by superior strength of Japanese—and the whole operation received a moral setback. But the Japs hadn't plenty of reconnaissance planes, and did not find our strip. And why? Because the fighters of Col. Cochrans Air Commando—which is the air force working with the expedition—had been out on airfield strafes, and had shot up 63 enemy planes in four days. Our Air power had reached out, and had left the Jap air-force bullet-riddled and burned on its own airfields. By the time the enemy had brought up reinforcements and were able to find our men, our concentrations were made, and the aerodrome defended. Since then, the troops have deployed, and are still there in North Burma, doing a great job.

It was an imaginative use of air power—bold and daring—a new chapter for the text book.

But the aerodrome strafing, which kept the Japanese air force out of action during the troop landings, has since turned out to have another and very important significance. Those aircraft which were shot up had been collected for a particular job—to provide the air support for the then impending attack on our Manipur Road and Imphal positions. The Japanese ground forces were already committed to the land action—then—suddenly —" bang!"—and, in one day, their bomber air-force was out.

We killed two birds with one stone—protected Wingate's troops and took away the air side of the enemy's own offensive.

It took the Japs three weeks to collect bombers together again, and last Monday and Tuesday they thought they had enough to take a belated hand in the struggle for Northern Burma. This idea cost them 30 aircraft destroyed in the air and another six probably destroyed. Their fighter losses they can replace fairly easily, but the 11 bombers which went down represent the greater part of their careful collection over three weeks. In other words, they are back where they started, and still have no bombers to back up their harassed 18th Division or the Imphal offensive.

So, on every hand, we can see how vital the air is in this Burma war, where the men below are hindered by undergrowth, by scrub, and by mountains, in the worst fighting country in the world. Without air power, we should certainly no longer hold the initiative in the Arakan, and the British and American troops would not be in the middle of Burma. But vital as our air dominion is to-day—how much more vital is it to become? Even in the hard fought skies of Europe room is still found for new tactics—for bold plans of surprise. How much wider is the scope offered us here over the tracks of Burma?

The battle of Arakan, and Wingate's invasion, have been two pointers. In both cases the air freed us from the fettering entanglements of the ground. May it not well be that, as a result of these past two months, wider ideas and more daring plans will develop, which might show us yet a short cut to victory. We have a queen on the Burma chessboard—and with it we have already played some successful combinations. There are many more to be planned and to be tried.

FOOD IS A MUNITION OF WAR.

A broadcast, on March 27 from the Delhi Station of All India Radio.

(By Mr. W. H. Kirby, Rationing Adviser to the Government of India).

I want to talk to you for a few minutes on a subject which is daily becoming more precious than money, and just as important as munitions of war—in fact, what I am going to talk about is a munition of war. No doubt you have guessed what my subject is going to be, it is FOOD, and the feeding of millions upon millions of people, whether they be of the highest birth or of the lowliest walks of life. Each one and every one has a right to that quantity of essential foods that will keep him or her in a healthy and efficient state of living.

In war-time, or in a time of crisis due to economic or other causes, the whole life of a nation is affected by the severity of the conditions generated by current events, and one of the first commodities to feel the impact of such conditions is the people's food. One of the reasons why there appears to be a shortage of the essential foods in India to-day is the difficulty of knowing exactly the amount of foodgrains that are surplus to requirements in a Province, or State; and another reason is the difficulty of knowing exactly how much a deficit Province or State requires of certain food grains. There are, of course, several other reasons contributing to food shortages in India, and throughout the World, but there is no doubt whatsoever as to the really only effective method of maintaining control of any food situation to ensure that everyone shares and shares alike, and that is by the individual or, in some areas, family ration-card procedure in food rationing.

When these operations are working efficiently, many difficult problems are solved and the path to a new era is cleared. You are entitled to ask "What is this era?" My reply is briefly expressed by saying that rationing provides a yard-stick for measuring consumption, and guarantees an equal quantity to everyone, at a controlled price which everyone should be able to afford. Rationing prevents hoarding and profiteering, and thus, in a surplus Province or State, enables the safest maximum quantity of essential foods to be sent to those other people in deficit areas who would possibly suffer acute privation unless such surplus quantities were sent to them regularly and promptly. But above all, there is one more vital aspect of rationing, and that is, it restores the confidence of the people, the importance of which cannot be over-estimated.

You will expect me to say a few words on the various rationing schemes now in existence—or about to be brought into existence—in all Provinces and in the leading States. I have visited each Province and most of the larger States, and thanks to the courtesy of all officials, I have had the privilege of examining their rationing schemes in detail, and have been much impressed with the keenness and enthusiasm displayed by most Administrations in the manner in which they are surmounting innumerable difficulties in organising their food-control schemes.

To-day there are over 130 towns in which rationing schemes are already in existence or are about to be inaugurated, representing more than 25,000,000 people—in a year's time these figures may be doubled.

Before I end this short talk on such an important subject as the people's food, I want to say a few words to all those merchants and others engaged in the foodgrains business. No one welcomes interference with their private affairs but when it is necessary for a Government to take a predominating and leading part in guaranteeing the supplies of essential foods to the people, it cannot allow any trader, big or small, to obstruct the plans of supply and distribution. Therefore, in a food rationing scheme, there is a most important rôle to be undertaken by the grain merchant in playing his part, willingly and helpfully, without thinking so much of what profit he is going to make out of the transaction, but how much he can contribute to the well-being and confidence of the people he has to serve, by making quite sure that the quality of the foodgrains is up to standard—or better —that the weights are correct and the price is in accordance with Government regulations. It is often said that directly a Government brings in a Control Order—especially a Price Control Order—the goods immediately disappear.

Who makes them disappear? Not the Government, not the consumer, but that type of merchant whose object in life is to attempt to profit by the misfortunes of others.

Under a food-rationing scheme such malpractices will cease, and profiteers will be dealt with in a manner commensurate with their crimes against their fellow-beings.

CO-OPERATION OF NON-OFFICIALS AND PRESS.

May I say a few words about the necessity of and the functions of a Food Advisory Committee? Since feeding the people is such an intimate matter, it is necessary to know at all times how the individual is reacting, and standing up to rationing, and whether the necessary regulations should or should not be amended or relaxed, if real hardship is being caused by some particular order which is not achieving the objects for which it has

been drafted. It is in such circumstances—and in many others—that a carefully constituted Food Advisory Committee, chiefly composed of non-official members, must be helpful. It should include men and women who are well known for their welfare and social work ; a doctor and a nutrition expert should also be members. Publicity of the right kind is invaluable in a food rationing scheme since, through the Press—either by editorial matter or advertisements—much information can be given to the largest number of people quicker than by any other mean except, of course, by wireless. Throughout India, the Press has been generally most helpful to rationing, especially after it has been fully realised that what is being done by Government is for the benefit of the people as a whole. Therefore, it is pleasing to know that India's Press is co-operating in a whole-hearted manner with your rationing authorities.

If there are any industrialists or other large employers of labour listening to me, I would like to ask them whether they have installed factory canteens in their works, from which their workers of any caste or creed can buy good, wholesome, well-cooked food, and eat it in pleasant and cheerful surroundings.

I am fully aware that in asking this question I am treading on controversial ground, but I can assure you that labour throughout the world is seeking better conditions, and especially good feeding conditions, which will be beneficial from the employers' point of view as leading to a higher standard of production. A rationing authority will always allow quantities of rationed foods to be served as cooked foods to factory workers, free of the ration.

To those critics who feel that too much emphasis is being laid on the subject of food control, I should like to put a question: Do they know what is going to be our food position in India next year, or in 3 years, or even 5 years ? Is it not better to put into operation immediately a well-designed, efficient administrative and distributive machine now, so that it will be functioning smoothly and able to stand up to any shocks that may be coming ? And is it not reasonable to suppose that if we all are prepared for trouble, when it comes the force of it will be quickly absorbed and comparatively normal conditions continue. We are not very good at planning ahead in India, but we're learning a lot and rapidly too—no one can quarrel with the saying, "to be forewarned is to be forearmed"—therefore, let us *all* on the Food Front make up our minds to shoulder our responsibilities, put up with inconveniences and win the Battle of Food.

In conclusion, I want to pay a tribute to all those keen, enthusiastic and hard-working officers and staff of all Food Administrations, wherever they may be, who are determined to play their part well in order to serve the people. And to all consumers on the Food Front, I feel sure that, once you have realised the necessity of rationing, you will co-operate to the highest degree, in order to make your rationing scheme the best, and a resounding success.

Members of the public are requested to make a free present of any suitable old Tamil books they can spare for the perusal, in their leisure time, of our soldiers outside India.

Books so given will be handed over to the Superintendent of the State Press, who will arrange to despatch them.

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXCV. (*Batch 5*).

Date	Place	Time
29- 4-44	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.
30- 4-44	Alangudi	... 7.00 „
„	Rasiyamangalam	... 7.30 „
1- 5-44	Tirumayyam	... 7.00 „
„	Melur	... 7.30 „
2- 5-44	Pallivasal	... 7.00 p.m.
„	Pillamangalam	... 7.30 „
3- 5-44	P. Puduppatti	... 7.00 „
„	Vendampatti	... 7.30 „
4- 5-44	Ambukkovil	... 7.00 „
„	Regunathapuram	... 7.30 „
5- 5-44	Arimalam	... 7.00 „

LECTURE CXCVI. (*Batch 6*).

Date	Place	Time
6- 5-44	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.
7- 5-44	Kilanilai-Puduppatti..	7.00 „
„	Kilanilai	... 7.30 „
8- 5-44	Perumanadu	... 7.00 „
„	Pulvayal	... 7.30 „
9- 5-44	Sadayampatti	... 7.00 „
„	Oliyamangalam	... 7.30 „
10- 5-44	Vellanur	... 7.00 p.m.
„	Sembattur	... 7.30 „
11- 5-44	Malampatti	... 7.00 „
„	Perambur	... 7.30 „
12- 5-44	Malaikkudippatti	... 7.00 „
„	Tulaiyanur	... 7.30 „

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

29— 4—44 Vettamviduthi.
30— 4—44 Embal.
2— 5—44 Kudumiyamalai.
3— 5—44 Rayavaram.
4— 5—44 Kilanilai.
5— 5—44 Arimalam.
6— 5—44 Ponnamaravathi.
7— 5—44 Kodumbalur.
9— 5—44 Perambur.
10— 5—44 Kilanilai-Puduppatti.
11— 5—44 Alangudi.
12— 5—44 Pudukkottai.

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